

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph beginning at line 11 of page 12 has been amended as follows:

The sample table 20 is a stage having a top surface on which the sample A can be fixed, and the table is movable in X and Y directions. The sample table 20 is arranged so as to move the sample A to the center location between a pair of magnetic pole members 10a. The sample A is electrically connected during use of the apparatus with a current amplifier 25 through the bias voltage source 26 for applying a bias voltage to the current amplifier 25. The cantilever 21 is shaped into a lever form, and the cantilever is formed from a material, e.g., silicon and silicon nitride. Further, on the top surface of the cantilever 21 there is, as a coating, a conducting material of gold, platinum, a carbon-based material, e.g., diamond-like carbon, etc. The ~~cantilever 21~~ cantilever 21 is mechanically coupled to the three-dimensional scanner 22, and therefore the cantilever 21 is so arranged that it can be finely moved by the scanner 22 relative to the sample A in all directions, i.e., up and down, right and left, and back and forth. More specifically, the sample A is moved by the sample table 20 so that the cantilever 21 is located over a target area on the sample A, and then the position of

the cantilever 21 is controlled by the three-dimensional scanner 22 with high accuracy. Also, one end of the cantilever 21 is electrically connected with the current amplifier 25.